

2 Home & Middle East News

Antagonism over Hebron stalls deal

HEBRON (AFP) — Rival Jewish and Arab claims to Hebron have turned the occupied city into the main flashpoint on the West Bank and a stumbling block to the spread of Palestinian autonomy across the territory.

Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natshe renewed calls Friday for the evacuation of the 400 die-hard settlers who live in a fortified compound in the heart of the town, protected by 2,000 Israeli soldiers.

The question of who is to control Hebron, home to 120,000 Palestinians, blocked a broader agreement overnight between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to extend autonomy.

Israel wants to maintain troops in the town to protect the settlers, while the PLO demands a troop pullout from all West Bank towns to enable elections to go ahead to an autonomy council.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres admitted that he had been unable to strike a deal with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat on Hebron and that the issue would now go to a special joint committee.

"We are very sorry and very sad to be left out," Mr. Natshe told AFP. "Hebron should be evacuated by Israel along with the other cities."

"We think this means that the people of Hebron will not be able to vote in the elections and if they do not vote the elections cannot be democratic."

"The people were closely following the negotiations in the hope of an end to our suffering."

Mr. Natshe and his council believe the only way to peace, particularly since a settler slaughtered 30 Muslims in Hebron's Ibrahim Mosque in February 1994, is to remove the Jewish presence.

He wants Palestinian police to protect Muslims at the tomb, which is holy to both faiths.

It was Hebron that the Bible says God made a covenant with Abraham (Ibrahim) to lead the "chosen people." And the Jewish hardliners insist they have a divine right to be here.

They believe all the "biblical land of Israel" belongs to the Jews according to the

"divine promise."

The council of Jewish settlements issued a statement Friday vowing to maintain a Jewish foothold in the city.

"Jews have been in Hebron for 3,000 years, long before the Arabs arrived and will be there long after," the council said.

In fact, it was in 1968 that the first Israeli hardliners moved back.

In the wave of Arab protests that swept Palestine in August 1929, the tiny Jewish community of Hebron had been virtually wiped out. Thirty-five families returned in 1931 but everything was destroyed in 1936 and the British evacuated survivors.

Armed extremists made little secret of their intentions to force out Hebron's Palestinian population after the 1967 war.

A clandestine Jewish group carried out three bomb attacks against Arab mayors in June 1980 in retaliation for the killing of six settlers in Hebron.

In 1983, the group killed four students at the Islamic college in the town.

A year later the network was smashed and its militants jailed, but they soon regained their freedom.

The anti-Arab Kach movement took up the fight and hit back after each attack on Jews, particularly after the Middle East peace process began in 1991.

Baruch Goldstein, who carried out the massacre in the Ibrahim Mosque, won fulsome praise from Kach and the movement was banned in March 1994.

The mosque is the traditional burial site of Abraham, his wife Sarah, and their family.

Herod the Great sealed off the cave in 20 B.C. with massive stones and today a huge structure covers the site, more like a fortress than a holy sanctuary.

Control over the site passed between Christians, Muslims and Jews over the centuries.

By 1260, the Muslim rulers refused to allow Jews to ascend any higher than the seventh step of an outside staircase.

The stairway was destroyed when Israeli forces took the city in 1967.

Hamas halted attacks

— Palestinian official

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas has called a halt to military operations against Israel for fear of "negative reactions" from the Palestinian population, a PLO security official said Thursday.

"Hamas has shown good sense in suspending operations to enable the Authority to negotiate with Israel," said General Zahariya Balusha of the Palestinian internal security service.

But he stressed in an interview on Israeli state radio that he was talking about "a temporary suspension."

Gen. Balusha said Hamas had offered Yasser Arafat's authority a plan for "a return to calm," but that it had been rejected.

Palestinian police chief General Nasr Yussef warned the Palestinian opposition against any attempt to try to sabotage an agreement under negotiation with Israel to extend autonomy across the West Bank.

Hamas and Islamic Jihad have spearheaded armed re-

sistance to Israeli occupation and the autonomy deal in a series of suicide bombings and other attacks which have left 815 people dead since self-rule began in Gaza in May 1994.

Mr. Arafat's authority has repeatedly arrested suspects after the attacks leading to serious tension with opposition movements.

However, in Damascus, Hamas vowed Wednesday to work against the new timetable agreed between Israel and the PLO for an army redeployment on the West Bank.

"We consider the latest accord as null and void because it strengthens the Zionist occupation and colonisation of our land, while isolating Palestinian villages," the group vowed in a statement.

"The Palestinian authorities' acceptance of a staggered redeployment of Israeli forces and the linking of implementation of the clauses of this accord to Zionist security constitute serious new concessions made to the enemy."

The World Health Organization (WHO) chose Egypt as the site for the experiments, while tests of vaccines on volunteers will be con-



SETTLERS DIG IN: Jewish settlers gather around a deserted house they have illegally occupied in the West Bank town of

Herbron to continue a campaign to prevent the expansion of Palestinian autonomy to the West Bank (see page one)

Archaeologists discover untouched Dead Sea caves

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Archaeologists

announced Friday that they have discovered four man-made caves in the chalky hills of Qumran, not far from where Arab shepherds first found the ancient Dead Sea scrolls.

Hopes are high that the undisturbed new caves contain more of the manuscripts written by the Essenes, a Jewish dissident sect that may have influenced the teachings of Jesus.

Excavation of the caves is

to begin in November, as archaeologists race against time before Qumran area of the West Bank, on the northwest shores of the Dead Sea, is handed over to Palestinian control.

The discovery of the caves is

now a surprise. The entire area has been extensively excavated and surveyed since the Dead Sea scrolls were discovered in the 1950s. The last scroll was found in 1956.

"This is the first time since 1956 that caves carved by humans have been found in the Qumran area," archaeologist Magen Broshi told the Associated Press.

Mr. Broshi, the former curator of the Dead Sea scrolls at the Israel museum, came out of retirement to join the excavation with Hanan Eshel, an archaeologist from Bar Ilan University, who discovered the caves about a year ago.

"I know we are running out of time," Mr. Eshel told the AP. "A lot of things can

happen: They may collapse, someone may lose them or maybe the political situation will change."

To prevent looting, the existence of the caves was kept secret until the archaeologists were ready to begin excavation. The entrances to the caves have been hidden and the exact location has not been disclosed.

The caves are carved in marr, a crumbly mix of clay, sand and limestone. They haven't been touched. These caves are pure and sealed," Mr. Broshi said in a telephone interview. He said chances are good that they were inhabited by members of the Essenes sect, who lived in the area between about 150 B.C. and 50 A.D.

Mr. Eshel said he had located trails that led from the caves to the Essenes settlement at Qumran.

"Even if we don't find any thing and they are totally empty it offers more information on how these people lived," he said.

The Dead Sea scrolls are ancient documents that include poetry, legal texts and the earliest known sections of the Bible. They were found in 11 caves near the Dead Sea between 1947 and 1956.

Some 530 of the 850 Dead Sea scrolls were found in one cave in the marr terrace similar to the ones Mr. Eshel and Mr. Broshi began to excavate.

But the scrolls did not survive well in the crumbly cave and archaeologists are still piecing together the 15,000 frag-

ments unearthed there. The chances of finding scrolls in good condition are not very high," Mr. Eshel said.

Mr. Eshel participated in "Operation Scroll," a sweep of caves in the Jericho region before the area was handed over to Palestinian control in 1994. The operation unearthed a number of 2nd century documents, jewellery and coins, but was criticised by Palestinians as last-minute plundering.

"The political situation doesn't help," Mr. Eshel said.

Mr. Broshi said he was not concerned since peace negotiations on expanding Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank talks seemed to be progressing slowly. But if the area was transferred before excavations began, he said, the caves would be plundered "quicker than you can say Jack Robinson."

"I will say that it is in the interest of scholarship that the excavations occur now before they (the caves) will be robbed," Mr. Broshi said.

Mr. Eshel said he would be working with Vendyl Jons, a Texas Bible Scholar who has led a number of archaeological digs to the Qumran area in search of the lost ark.

The Essenes were a group of largely celebrate males who practised an austere, contemplative life preparing for the Messiah. Like Jesus, they denounced the corruptions of the temple priests.

Saudis raise funds to help Bosnians

RIYADH (AFP) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia

announced a personal gift of \$13 million to Bosnian Muslims on Friday at the launch of a 12-hour telethon for the beleaguered citizens of the former Yugoslav republic.

Four hours after the start of the events on Friday, Saudi television said its programme had raised \$40 million in donations from Saudis and foreign benefactors.

Saudi Arabia, which followed a number of other Gulf countries in holding a televised telephone fund-raising event for Bosnia, said on Thursday it had already raised \$213 million before the telethon began.

King Fahd, who has donated \$103 million to Bosnia since the war began in 1992, received a personal message of thanks from Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic after his latest gift, the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said.

"The king's assistance has come at a time when the people have a desperate need for aide from their (Saudi) brothers," said President Izetbegovic.

King Fahd on Thursday made a fresh appeal to the international community and particularly Islamic countries to support Bosnia from slaughter by the Serbs.

"Your brothers ask you to come to their aid. It is our duty for all of us to intervene to save this Muslim people, crushed by Serb aggression," he said.

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lakes, rivers and canals.

Egypt, which puts \$9 to \$12 million annually into the fight against the parasite, has managed to reduce its spread from 40 per cent of the population in 1983 to 11.2 per cent in 1993, SRF figures said.

Egypt's rural areas, with their stagnant irrigation canals, are most affected. Half of those with the disease are rural children, while farmers make up much of the remainder.

The United States has spent \$40 million — \$18 million of which has gone to Egypt — since 1989 on research into a vaccine to replace the current treatment,

discovered in 1984, which does not prevent the parasite's return.

The human tissue tests will be conducted on six vaccines prepared in France, the U.S. and Brazil, where tests on animals have granted up to 60 per cent immunity, Mr. Galal said.

Egypt has two vaccines of its own to test and will have seven more prepared within a month, he added.

Biochemist Omar Karim, who is working on six vaccines, said his experiments aimed at gastric bilharzia, caused by the Schistosoma Mansoni worm, which is blamed for two-thirds of all cases in Egypt.

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Spain describes foiling plot to kill Juan Carlos as big blow to ETA

MADRID (R) — The Spanish government on Friday described the foiling of an ETA plot to kill King Juan Carlos on the holiday island of Majorca as an important blow against the Basque separatist guerrillas.

"It was a very important operation," Interior Minister State Secretary Margarita Robles told a radio interviewer, noting that it followed recent successful police action against ETA groups in Navarre, Barcelona and in southern France.

"Certainly the last few months have been very positive for the fight against terrorism," Ms. Robles said.

She suggested that the increasing weakness of ETA (Basque Homeland and Freedom) was driving the guerrillas to desperate measures.

"I think they are at their lowest ebb and for that reason they have to try plans like Majorca to show they are still strong," Ms. Robles said.

Police in Majorca on Wednesday night arrested three ETA militants with documents and equipment indicating they were planning to kill the king.

They had rented an apartment near the Marivent Royal Palace just outside the island's capital of Palma and with a view over the harbour where the royal yacht was moored.

Police seized explosives and weapons, including a rifle with telescopic sight, and documents showing the guerrillas had made a detailed study of the movements of the royal family to and from their holiday home.



A police officer leads Jose Rego Vidal to a minibus on their way to the airport on August 10 after the three-member commando of the Basque separatist group ETA was arrested overnight here where Spain's King Juan Carlos is vacationing. Police said they still do not know what the trio had been planning but added that documents seized on them showed they had been following the movements of the royal family and of former Premier Adolfo Suarez (AFP photo)

of involvement in plots against the royal family.

In 1974 he was connected with a failed plan to kidnap the king's father, Don Juan de Borbon, in Monte Carlo and five years later he was jailed for a year for involvement in a conspiracy to attack

Juan Carlos himself.

Police and newspaper files show that the royal family have been shadowed by ETA several times in the past 20 years but on no occasion have the guerrillas been able to carry through an attack.

Mr. Rego, a long-standing ETA militant, has a history

Chechens accuse Russia of violating military accord

GROZNY (AFP) — The Chechen separatists Friday accused Russia of flagrantly violating the joint military accord signed less than two weeks ago and of preventing their delegation from attending peace talks.

Akhmed Zakayev, culture minister in the breakaway Chechen government, accused the Russians of preparing a new military offensive despite an agreement under the military accord to begin disarmament on both sides.

"The Chechen side has incontrovertible evidence that the Russian side is using the talks process to regroup its forces and prepare for a major attack all along the front line," he said.

He said there were cases of Russian forces opening up artillery fire on populated areas of the small Caucasus republic.

Zakayev also said the Chechen delegation was halted Friday at a Russian military post near Roshni Chu, about 60 kilometres southwest of Grozny on its way to the talks.

The row has been one of the most serious since negotiations began, although Mr. Zakayev said talks would continue Saturday.

On Thursday, the Chechens walked out of talks to protest what they said

were Russian violations.

NTV television said talks restarted shortly after, when the Russian side apologised for blocking the Chechen delegation at a Russian post.

The Chechens had said they were suspending talks because the Russians were not adhering to the prisoners exchange accord.

On Friday, Mr. Zakayev said that "the Russian side is continuing flagrantly to violate the accord."

The government delegation of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria and the members of the specially appointed (military) commission were again held up at a military post near Roshni Chu village.

The Russian side is also undermining fulfilment of various points of the accord, notably the exchange of forcibly detained people, on the principle of all for all."

The Russians also say the other side is failing to hand over prisoners, or even information on their whereabouts.

The chief Russian representative at talks on prisoner releases, Colonel Vladimir Ivanov, said he gave Chechen separatists details about more than 90 captured Russian soldiers but the Chechens had presented a list of only five.

A shaky ceasefire has been

in effect since June 20, when the peace process began, but frequent violations have been reported by both sides.

Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev, believed to be less than fully behind the peace deal with the Russians, issued a decree Aug. 2 that officially created "a regular army."

The rebels already claimed their rag-tag forces, which put up a fierce resistance against the Russian army for more than six months, was an official army, but the timing of the latest decree was seen as provocative.

"We prove a peaceful path is impossible for Dudayev," said head Russian negotiator Vyacheslav Mikhailov, quoted by ITAR-TASS.

Mr. Mikhailov, accompanied by Interior Minister Anatoly Kulikov, left for Grozny from Moscow to restart high-level negotiations with the Chechens, although the exact timing was not known.

Since the military accord July 30, talks have been at technical commission level.

Tens of thousands of Russian troops stormed into Chechnya Dec. 11 to crush a three-year independence bid led by Mr. Dudayev. Between 15,000 and 30,000 people have been killed, a majority of them civilians.

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — France has agreed in principle to allow European Commission (EC) experts to observe its planned nuclear tests in the South Pacific and will meet the EU executive soon to discuss the tests' effects.

The French government has proposed that this meeting should take place before the end of this month, commission spokesman Costas Verros told a news conference.

"The French government has accepted that this meeting should take place before the end of this month," commission spokesman Costas Verros told a news conference.

"We can say we are satisfied because the French government has accepted the commission's request to organise an experts' meeting. The French government has also accepted the principle of an on-site mission and of access by that mission to the installation (at the test site)," Mr. Verros said.

"We are going to suggest having the meeting next week," he added.

France announced in June that the military accord July 30, talks have been at technical commission level.

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Paris says it needs the tests to perfect computer simulations to non-explosive testing of warheads.

Commission involvement

South, North Koreas hold talks on seized rice ship

SEOUL (R) — Officials from North and South Korea met in Beijing on Friday in a bid to secure the return of a southern rice-aid ship and 21 crew held by the North on spy charges, a South Korean unification ministry spokesman said Friday.

"A meeting started last night and is still continuing," the spokesman said.

"The meeting is likely to go on tomorrow and we are making our utmost efforts to secure the release of the Samson Venus and its crew," he said.

The domestic Yonhap news agency said the talks were making progress but the spokesman said he had no details.

Kim Hyung-Ki, the South's assistant unification minister for information and analysis, arrived in Beijing Thursday to try to contact a Northern representative.

South Korea's state radio said Mr. Kim was now meeting Lee Song-Dok, a senior member of North Korea's committee for the promotion of external economic cooperation.

Vice Unification Minister Song Young-Dae was quoted by Yonhap as telling a cabinet meeting he believed the North would soon re-patriate the ship and its crew.

The ship is the second Southern vessel in Pyongyang's custody after patrol boats seized a trawler with eight crew aboard off the west coast peninsula in May.

Under an accord signed in Beijing last June, South Korea is supplying 150,000 tonnes of free rice to the North to ease what Seoul says is a chronic food shortage and to improve ties. Half already has been shipped to the North.

On Wednesday, North Korea abruptly told the South it would shelve a third round of talks on rice aid due to have opened in Beijing on Thursday.

The North accused a crewman on the ship of illegally photographing port facilities when the ship docked at Chongjin a week ago and said he admitted spying.

The Samson Venus, which unloaded 5,000 tonnes of rice at Chongjin, was to have left the North last Sunday.

Seoul announces sweeping amnesty

In another development Friday, South Korea announced a sweeping clemency order, benefiting prominent politicians and businessmen, to mark the end of World War II 50 years ago which liberated the country from Japan's harsh colonial rule.

Justice Minister Ahn Wooh-Mahn said the clemency for 3,169 people would include 10 politicians, the founder of the giant Hyundai conglomerate Chung Ju-Yung, chairman Kim Woo-Choong of the Daewoo business group and 20 other businessmen.

Mr. Park, a lawmaker until he was found guilty of receiving 600 million won (\$790,000) from the nation's slot-machine "godfather," Chung Duk-Jim in return for persuading authorities to allow Mr. Chung to evade taxes, was released on parole several months ago. He can now run freely for elected office.

Sam, marking the historic 50th anniversary of liberation, has decided to make a clemency order benefiting a total of 3,169 people," Mr. Ahn said.

He said the amnesty was to allow as many people as possible to take part in a new leap forward" in national development and to celebrate the anniversary as an important turning point for the nation.

Mr. Ahn said 1,867 of the prisoners would be freed from jail on Aug. 15, the 50th anniversary of liberation from Japan's rule over Korea that lasted from 1910-45.

Another 426 prisoners will have their terms reduced while the rest, who have already been freed, will now have their civil rights fully restored.

Without official clemency, prisoners freed without completing their terms or those who have had their sentences suspended are barred from voting or running for offices.

Among prominent politicians benefiting from the order was Park Chul-Un, a powerful relative of ex-President Roh Tae-Woo, who was convicted of accepting bribes in November 1993.

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Study urges Germany to let shops stay open late

BONN, Germany (AP) — A government-commission study recommended that German shops be allowed to stay open until 10 p.m. on weekdays and 6 p.m. on Saturdays. The long-awaited study by the Munich-based IFO Institute for Economic Research was expected to spark a heated debate in Germany, where many defend the current early closing hours as necessary to protect small shopkeepers and the family lives of retail workers.

Germany has the tightest store-closing hours in Europe — 6:30 p.m. on normal weekdays and 2 p.m. Saturdays, with a few extra hours on Thursdays and some Saturdays. Pressure has been building to modernise the law in order to create more jobs in the retail sector, stimulate the economy with more buying, and accommodate an increasing number of workers doing evening and weekend shifts. Parliament is expected to change the law in its next session, which starts in September.

Belgian arrested for pedophilia in Philippines

MANILA (AFP) — A Belgian national was arrested in a resort town just outside the Philippine capital for suspected pedophilia, immigration bureau agents said here Thursday.

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France agrees to allow EU observers at Pacific nuclear tests

in the tests procedure stems from the requirement in the EU's nuclear treaty for countries to keep the EU executive informed of the environmental and health effects of their nuclear tests.

The commission is still mulling over the question of whether it has the legal power to do anything more than observe the tests. No decision is expected before September.

Foreign Minister Gareth Evans admitted Friday that what had been hailed by Australia as a victory over the French government on its nuclear testing programme was nothing of the sort.

In Sydney, Australia's prime minister and foreign minister were striving Friday to find a common line on France's reported plan to shut down the Mururoa nuclear test site next year after a series of tests.

As the diplomatic wrangling continued, at least 14 vessels were underway or preparing to "cast off" for Mururoa to protest the proposed series of French nuclear tests.

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He was referring to a statement by French foreign ministry official Yves Douroux on Wednesday that France would stop all forms of nuclear testing and close its Mururoa facility once it had finished its latest test programme in the South Pacific.

Earlier Friday, Prime Minister Paul Keating said he accepted at "face value" the French promise to shut the

Mururoa Pacific test site after the planned series of eight underground tests starting next month.

Evans, however, told reporters in Melbourne that the statement on U.S. radio that the French government intended to close the test site in May did not reflect the real position.

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Commission involvement

FRANCE

GERMANY

French Ambassador to the U.N. in Geneva Gerard Errera (right) speaks to the press at the U.N.-disarmament conference in Geneva.

August 10. Errera declared that France will continue its planned nuclear bomb test till May 1996 (AFP photo)

Savimbi says Angolan war is over

LUANDA (R) — UNITA rebel leader Jonas Savimbi, said on Friday that Angola's 19-year civil war was over and the Angolan news agency said he would become vice-president in a coalition government.

"We (UNITA) accepted the offer. But the formal offer should be sent to UNITA, not to Jonas Savimbi. We will wait for the formal letter of invitation," Angop quoted the UNITA leader as telling reporters after the meeting.

"What will happen if I die?" the UNITA leader added, when asked why the invitation was formally sent to his movement.

A peace accord signed between UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) and the Luanda government last November brought a tenuous end to 19 years of civil war that devastated the country, killed at least 500,000 people and drove a third of its 10 million population from their

homes.

Mr. Dos Santos told Africa Numero 1 on Friday that the wartime rivals had started the difficult process towards peace but said national reconciliation was no longer a dream.

"We have begun a difficult process.... there have been (military) actions but the scope of these actions cannot be compared with what he lived through about a year ago.

"The government undertakes to be serious in carrying out its undertakings in the conviction that peace... and national reconciliation will no longer be a dream but a reality in the coming months," the Angolan president said.

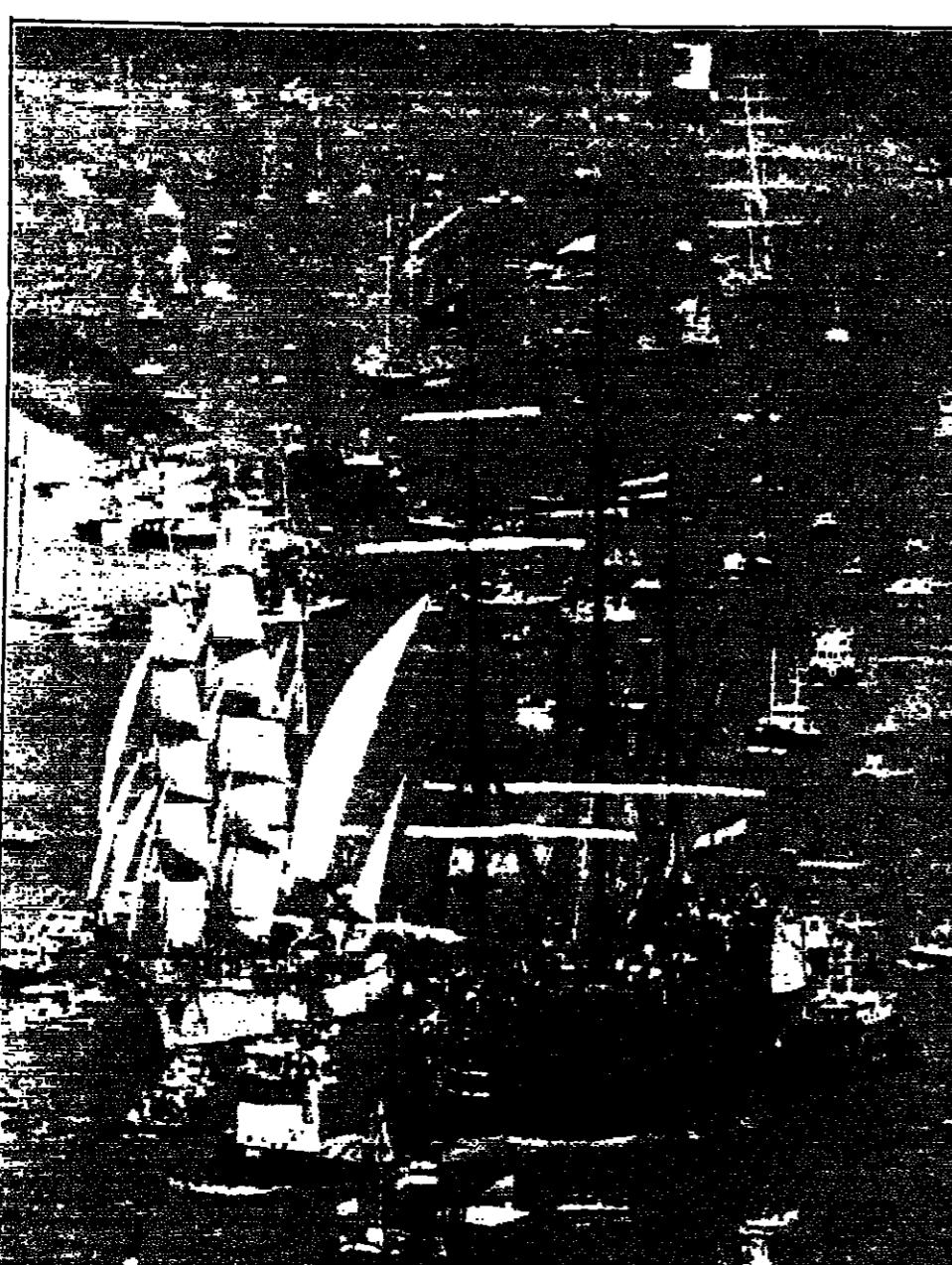
Mr. Dos Santos and Mr. Savimbi met in Franceville, 550 kilometres southeast of Gabon's capital Libreville, to try to hammer out the rebel leader's role in a future

government, forming a single national army, and the establishment of a government with significant participation by UNITA.

Diplomats said demobilisation of an estimated 75,000 UNITA guerrillas and around 100,000 Angolan armed forces along with the creation of a single 70,000-strong army were among the greatest obstacles to peace.

The Ang

World News



PARADE OF SAIL: The Dutch three-mast bark started Thursday morning with the Parade of Europe (left) and the replica of the Dutch Sali. Sali will last until Sunday Aug. 13 (AFP photo). Amsterdam Aug. 10. Sali Amsterdam 1995

N. Irish police braced for weekend Protestant parades

BELFAST (R) — Northern Ireland police plan a major security operation at the weekend to prevent trouble at two potential flashpoint parades by Protestants celebrating centuries-old battles.

Hundreds of police will be deployed in Belfast and the province's second major city, Londonderry, when an estimated 25,000 Protestants take to the streets in what Catholic feel are provocative and inappropriate parades.

The marches on Saturday take place against the background of deadlock in Anglo-Irish peacemaking a year after IRA guerrillas halted a 25-year war to drive Britain from the province.

Gerry Adams, president of the IRA's political wing, Sinn Fein, appealed to the Protestant "Orange" movement on Thursday to call off marches which will snake through predominantly Catholic areas of Belfast and Londonderry.

"Surely at this decisive time in our history and after everything that all sections of our people have endured, wiser counsels within Orangeism (Protestant political society) will prevail and parades

into areas where they are not welcome will be abandoned," he said.

Mr. Adams says the province risks renewed conflict unless there is a breakthrough in the peace process by the anniversary of the Irish Republican Army ceasefire on Sept. 1.

The IRA truce was followed by a similar decision by Protestant loyalist gunmen. Peace talks are held up by the refusal of guerrillas to start handing over their weapons until all-party talks on a settlement are convened by Britain and Ireland.

The weekend marches are rich with the symbolism of Protestant domination of British-ruled Northern Ireland. Catholics say such shows of sectarianism are triumphalist and out of touch with the new era of peace.

But organisers insist that they will go ahead with marches that commemorate an occasion in 1689 when apprentice boys — trainee craftsmen — closed the gates of Londonderry as Catholic King James II began a siege of the city.

It lasted one year until

Protestant King William of Orange routed the Catholic armies on June 12, a date marked this year by gory clashes between police and Protestants trying to commemorate that battle.

A small march is planned for early on Saturday morning through Protestant areas of Belfast but it will also go down parts of the Ormeau road where Catholic residents say they are holding a music festival to keep it away.

Later on Saturday about 15,000 marchers and at least 8,000 followers are expected to converge on the predominantly Catholic city of Londonderry for the annual apprentice boys march along the walls of the city.

Catholic residents of the Bogside area of Londonderry say they plan to disrupt parts of the parade, which bring marchers to points overlooking their homes.

"The residents have decided that they are not prepared to allow a triumphalist march," the chairman of the residents association said in a statement.

'Leakey tried to address rally before beating'

NAIROBI (AFP) — Kenyan police charged Friday that white conservatives Richard Leakey and other members of his opposition party had tried to address a rally in the central town of Nakuru before being beaten up Thursday by "angry members of the public."

The attack — blamed by Leakey and other members of the Safina (Noah's Ark in Swahili) Party on ruling party youth wingers — was condemned by opposition politicians and the Law Society of Kenya.

The Safina members — and journalists, including a British woman — were attacked by thugs wielding rubber whips and pick-axe handles. Some were hospitalized, and cars were smashed.

Mr. Leakey said the Safina team had gone to Nakuru, 160 kilometres dissident in jail, and denied that they had made any attempt to address a rally.

Rift Valley police chief F.K.A. Sang issued a statement, however, saying the Safina members had not notified authorities of "the intended rally" and that this "made it difficult for police to offer protection or prevent the incidence of violence."

He said he had launched an investigation and that appropriate action would be taken against those found to have contravened the law.

Bangladesh opposition plan strategy to topple Zia

DHAKA (AFP) — Bangladesh opposition groups have been meeting here to plan joint strategy, including another general strike, to bring down the government of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

It would be the first time the Awami League, Jatiya Party and fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islamiya, have planned a joint can campaign.

They said the government was ignoring "popular demand to dissolve the illegal parliament" and was conspiring to hang on to power.

The focus of the latest opposition anger is a decision by the election commission to delay by three months by-elections for the 142 seats they vacated.

The commission said the decision to hold them in December instead of September was taken because of widespread flooding in the country.

The seats were declared vacant after deputies boycotted parliamentary proceedings for more than 90 days.

The opposition groups said the commission's ruling "violated the constitution" and an Awami League leader, who asked not to be named, said nationwide demonstrations were planned for Saturday.

Search for bodies of 65 killed in Salvadoran plane crash continues

Beijing executes 10 to ensure 'public order' at U.N. conference

BEIJING (AP) — More than 10 people convicted of murder, robbery and other crimes have been executed to ensure "public order" during next month's U.N. women's conference, the official Beijing daily reported Thursday.

China's security forces have been rounding up dissidents and expelling job-seekers and peddlers coming into Beijing from the countryside as part of the pre-conference crackdown.

"To safeguard the capital's public order and ensure good public order during the upcoming world women's conference, the municipal first intermediate court quickly handled a batch of criminal cases," the newspaper said.

"After being approved by the higher level people's court, the executions were carried out in recent days," the newspaper said. The condemned were led one by one to the killing ground. Criminals are usually put to death with a single gunshot to the head.

Four of those executed had murdered six drivers to steal their cars, one killed to avenge a fight and another went on a spree of 59 robberies in which threatened people were confiscated.

"To safeguard the capital's

public order and ensure good public order during the upcoming world women's conference, the municipal first intermediate court quickly handled a batch of criminal cases," the newspaper said.

Government officials have portrayed the conference as an opportunity to showcase China as a rising regional power.

In the past few weeks,

security forces have detained

these political activists not

already in custody.

A private campaign demanding compensation for victims of Japanese atrocities during World War II has come under intense pressure.

The leader, Tong Zeng, has been barred from attending an NGO forum discussion group on forced prostitution during the war. Police detained him Tuesday for 24 hours and warned him not to make trouble during the conference.

The central and municipal governments also have ordered a crackdown on peasants coming into the city to find work. Tighter restrictions requiring temporary residents cards have been issued and police have set up check points around the city.

"This series of exercises is

China to hold second missile test in a month

BEIJING (AP) — Experts say China's second series of missile tests in a month will have little military value but rather are aimed at intimidating Taiwan.

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Beijing has been wary of Taiwan President Lee Teng-Hui's efforts to gain greater international recognition for the economic powerhouse and was alarmed when Washington allowed him to make a private visit.

China started a three-month military exercise on the coast opposite Taiwan soon after Mr. Lee's visit and then tried to increase the pressure with ballistic missile tests in mid-July.

The announcement Thursday of the next planned tests, due to start Tuesday and last for 10 days, came after Taiwan scheduled army, navy and air force exercises in October.

"This series of exercises is

meant to intimidate Taiwan," said Eric Arnett, a military technology expert at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

Although usually secretive about its military, Beijing reported the latest planned tests the same way it announced the previous ones: in a brief dispatch from the government news agency and on the national TV news.

"The Chinese People's Liberation Army will conduct exercises of guided missile and artillery live ammunition firing," the official Xinhua news agency said.

Ships and airplanes were warned to stay out of the designated waters and airspace in the target area, 100 kilometers north of Taiwan.

Experts say China tests missiles every year at this time, but normally notification is given quietly through diplomatic channels.

They also noted that there is little military intelligence to be gained by repeated firings of missiles. Six surface-to-surface ballistic missiles were fired in the last test.

In addition, China's military normally tests missiles on land, where greater secrecy

can be maintained than in international waters, so there is no need for the target area to be so close to Taiwan, the experts said.

"The East China Sea is a big ocean. They don't have to put it 100 clicks (kilometres) off Taiwan," said Bob Karriol, Asia-Pacific editor for Jane's defence weekly.

China's military is believed to have played a greater role in policy-making toward Taiwan and the United States since the foreign ministry failed to prevent Mr. Lee's U.S. visit.

Reports in the Hong Kong media citing unnamed sources have said China's top leaders have decided to keep the pressure on Mr. Lee and on Taiwan.

Presidential elections are scheduled for next year and China is worried that Mr. Lee or opposition leaders will win, spurring calls for Taiwan to declare independence.

Mr. Lee has moved his nationalist party away from its cold war-era claim to sovereignty over all of China.

The nationalists took refuge on Taiwan after losing civil Communist Party-led forces in 1949.

Rival groups in Kashmir clash; one militant killed

SRINAGAR, India (R) — A Kashmiri separatist was killed and a Muslim worshipper wounded in a clash in a clash at a historic Muslim shrine, police said on Friday.

Members of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) and Hizb-Ul-Mujahideen fired at each other late on Thursday at the Hazratbal Shrine in Srinagar, the summer capital of India's Jammu and Kashmir state, army officials said.

Police said a JKLF militant told Reuters this week his group was due on Friday to rejoin the all-party Hurriyat conference, which groups some 30 separatist units including Hizb-Ul-Mujahideen.

The woman was among some 16,000 Muslims attending

prayers at the shrine on

the birthday of Prophet Mohammad, authorities said.

The JKLF broke with Hurriyat during a siege of Hazratbal by Indian security forces

in 1993. It was not clear following the fighting if JKLF would rejoin the Hurriyat as planned.

The clash between the two militant groups came at the end of a day of violence across the state, torn by a five-year-old separatist revolt against Indian rule in which police and hospital officials say more than 20,000 people have died.

The JKLF seeks Kashmir's independence from India, which rules two-thirds of the state, and Pakistan which controls the rest. The Hizb-Ul-Mujahideen wants Kashmir to join Pakistan.

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Half of Japan's cabinet to visit controversial war shrine

TOKYO (AP) — Half of Japan's cabinet plans to visit a controversial shrine to the war dead on Tuesday, the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, despite the shrine last year although seven ministers of the then government did.

The Kyodo news agency said Friday that 10 out of the 21 ministers from the three ruling coalition parties plan to pay homage at Yasukuni Shrine.

The Shinto sanctuary, out-

side the Imperial Palace, is dedicated to those who died in Japan's modern wars — including wartime prime minister General Hideki Tojo and other Class-A war criminals hanged for their

World War II roles.

Shinto was enforced as the state religion during the war with the emperor worshipped as its deity.

Prime Minister Murayama and the five other ministers from his leftist party, known for its pacifist creed, have vowed not to visit the shrine this year, Kyodo said.

But many of the 13 ministers from the LDP will go, Kyodo added, including Construction Minister Yoshiro Mori, Minister of International Trade and Industry Ryutaro Hashimoto, Education Minister Yoshihisa

Shimamura, Home Affairs Minister Takashi Fukaya and State Minister for Defence Seishiro Eto.

"I visit the shrine every year, although not necessarily August 15," said the new education minister.

Mr. Shimamura angered Asian neighbours Wednesday by saying it was not clear if Japan had waged a war of aggression in Asia and that Japan should not keep on apologizing for its wartime

Japanese citizens, including Buddhists and Christians, have also opposed the pilgrimage which they say violates the constitutional

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Sound asylum

JORDAN'S DECISION to grant Iraqi Minister of Minerals and Industries Lt.-General Hussein Kamel Hassan and his brother Col. Saddam Hassan and their families and entourage asylum in the country is defensible morally and legally. When people so close to the Iraqi president choose to seek haven in Jordan, then there is little the Jordanian leadership can do except to grant them their wish, regardless of the political cost or benefit involved in the process.

For years now we have been hearing about one wave of repression in Iraq after the other with many Iraqi citizens literally put to summary executions for even the flimsiest reasons or for appearing to hold counter views on how to govern the country and deal with the aftermath of the Gulf war. The Iraqi people also have suffered too much and for too long because of the U.N. sanctions imposed on Baghdad as all efforts to ease their agonies have ended in vain. His Majesty King Hussein throughout this period has been making every possible effort to lift or at least to ease those sanctions often in the face of stiff opposition from several Arab and international quarters. Likewise Jordan has defended what Iraq has already done to meet its obligations under the relevant Security Council resolutions as more than sufficient to begin the process of rehabilitating it internationally and regionally.

There is also the legal side to this issue. Under international law, no state may refuse the defection to its territory of a citizen from a foreign country without due process of the law. The "non-refoulement" principle requiring governments to allow the entry of foreign nationals asking for political asylum when they allege repression and persecution or fear of basic human rights violations is so well established that it has become part of the customary international law. The case of Baghdad against acceding the Iraqi defectors asylum and safe haven in Jordan is weakened by repeated U.N. condemnation of Iraq's human rights record. Under the circumstances, Jordan had no choice under international norms but to grant the Iraqi people in question asylum pending the resolution of their status at a later stage.

This episode need not disturb the existing relationship between the two countries. Its fallouts can still be contained by the Iraqi government by taking appropriate remedial steps in the direction of making such defections unnecessary.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IBRAHIM AL ABSI, a writer in Al Ra'i, accused the Israeli government of working against peace and of trying to make it impossible for the Palestinian people to regain control of their homeland. After more than 12 months of delay and procrastination, the Israeli government has not yet agreed on a programme for the redeployment of Israeli forces in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to make way for the expansion of the Palestine National Authority's (PNA) self-rule in these areas, said the writer. Having realised that the Palestinian negotiators did not give up the talks in despair in the face of Israel's tactics but have been showing patience with the Israeli postponements and delays the Israeli government resorted to new tactics, namely the settlers' protests, said the writer. He said that the Israeli government, which had repeatedly stressed its desire to maintain and protect the settlements in Arab lands, has allowed the settlers to stage violent protests just to show the world that it is finding it difficult to end its presence in Arab territories and that the Israeli people refuse to give up the occupied land. But, the writer said, with such tactics, the Israeli government cannot escape from the moment of truth and has to know that a retreat from the path of peace and failure to implement the agreements with the Palestinians are bound to jeopardise the whole peace process.

A WRITER in Al Dusour called on the government to organise a national conference to deal with the question of university education in Jordan and to pave the way for granting all citizens the right to acquire higher education. Fakhri Kawar said that the state universities will this year accept only one third of those who passed the Tawjih examinations, leaving the rest to face a grim future. While the state universities base their acceptance of students on the basis of grades, the private universities have a different criteria, namely the students' financial situation, said the writer. He said that by allowing the private universities to accept only those students who can pay high fees, the Council of Higher Education is helping to keep the poor and deprived of education, simply because they cannot afford to pay for it. If the government cannot subsidise higher education as it has been doing with the basic food commodities, then, said the writer, it can at least interfere and put an end to the private universities' greed for high fees and put an end to their lust for massing fortunes at the expense of Jordanian citizens.

Jordanian Perspective

By Dr. Musa Keilani

Jewish extremism poses real threat to Jerusalem's identity

THE RECENT ruling by the Israeli supreme court that Jews can "tour" the Haram Al Sharif complex, which houses some of the holiest shrines in Islam, cannot be seen in isolation from the campaign launched by religious and political extremists in Israel to "cleanse" the area for the "coming of the Messiah." The court ruling is the first step towards allowing the alliance, led by the Likud Party on the political level and half a dozen extremist groups on the religious level, to destroy the Al Aqsa and Dome of the Rock shrines in the Haram Al Sharif complex.

Although not much of it is public knowledge, tens of millions of dollars have been raised for these groups and spent on acquiring Palestinian land and buildings in Jerusalem. Now, the target of the alliance is to "prepare" the Haram Al Sharif compound, which Jews call "Temple Mount," to be the site for a Jewish temple where the Messiah could land after Aqsa and Dome of the Rock are destroyed.

For these groups, the presence of Muslims and Islamic shrines make the site "unclean," and, as such, the first priority of the Israeli extremist alliance is to eliminate that presence.

The very thought of the alliance gives us shivers in Jordan. The groups could do serious harm not only to the Islamic shrines in Jerusalem but also to the entire Arab-Israeli peace process in the event of a Likud victory in next year's general elections.

Some of the groups are also known to be plotting to blow up the Islamic holy shrines.

Now, the Israeli supreme court has allowed Jews to "tour" the area but not to pray there. In the future it could also "allow" them to pray at the site in what will be a fait accompli for Jews to preempt any logical negotiations on the future status of Jerusalem.

Overlooked in the whole affair is the fact that no Israeli court is legally empowered to make any decision concerning Arab East Jerusalem since the city is an occupied territory, where, under international laws and conventions, the occupying power cannot impose its rules and regulations.

But international laws and regulations have never dissuaded Israel from pursuing its own designs in the occupied territories. That, however, should not stop us from pressing our case in that framework in the international scene.

The latest we heard from the Israeli government on Jerusalem was the proposal by the minister of religious affairs that the so-called "Hebron formula" be applied at Haram Al Sharif. That means a sharing of the compound among Muslims and Jews along the same lines as the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron.

As far as Muslims are concerned, the proposal is non-starter and should not even be discussed. Haram Al Sharif is Muslim and should remain Muslim. It is as simple as that.

At the very outset of the Middle East peace process, it was a well-known fact that Jerusalem would be among the thorniest issues on the table for the negotiators, but there was also an understanding that Israel would not change the status and features of the Holy City until negotiations work out a formula acceptable to all and

that satisfies the political and territorial rights of the Palestinians. The letter of assurance given by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat that Israel would not change the features of Jerusalem during the interim period as stipulated in the Oslo accord is the best evidence yet of this understanding.

As such, the government of Labour leader Yitzhak Rabin cannot shirk its responsibility to ensure that no Israeli, extremist or otherwise, tries to violate this undertaking.

Very unfortunately, Israel has not lived up to that responsibility.

We recall that the Israeli government froze a decision to appropriate Palestinian land in Jerusalem early this year after an international and regional hue and cry. However, the fact was that it was the personal intervention by His Majesty King Hussein, through a letter to Mr. Rabin, that was the main reason that prompted the Israeli government to freeze the move. The reasons were obvious. First of all, the King reminded Mr. Rabin of the seriousness with which Arabs and Muslims view the issue of Jerusalem and warned that the entire peace process stood to suffer if Israel were to go ahead with the appropriation. Second, the King told Mr. Rabin, the Israeli move would pose serious obstacles to advancing the process of normalisation of relations between Jordan and Israel.

Over and above everything else is the reality that Israel cannot simply go ahead and do what it wants in Arab East Jerusalem. The city belongs to Arabs and Muslims in a religious and historical context.

For political purposes, the Israeli move to free the seizure of Palestinian land in Jerusalem was described as resulting from threats by Arab legislators to withhold support for the government in a confidence vote. But in reality it came from Mr. Rabin's understanding of the seriousness of the situation as raised by His Majesty.

Indeed, the Palestinians have their political rights in the city. And we in Jordan support those rights with all our might, and what we undertake to ensure that Israel does not preempt logical negotiations on Jerusalem by creating irreversible facts on the ground should be seen in that spirit by our Palestinian brothers.

Furthermore, we have seen that the Palestinians could be easily outmanoeuvred and manipulated by the Israelis. The repeated delays in implementing the Oslo accord speak volumes in this regard.

That leaves Jordan to launch a fresh initiative to ensure that Israel does not create new facts on the ground in Jerusalem. This would require Jordan to insist that the Rabin government adopt measures that would forestall any attempt by any Israeli group to interfere with the features of Arab East Jerusalem until the status of the city is determined through negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians.

The language that Jordan speaks in this context is not strange to Israel. If Mr. Rabin does not appreciate it, then he should also be prepared to the fallout — a total collapse of the very peace process that he has been nurturing since 1992.

Surprise shake-up is first fruit of cautious reform

Michael Field assesses the political significance of last week's wholesale ministerial changes in S. Arabia

THE SEVEN ministerial changes announced in Saudi Arabia last week represent perhaps the biggest shake-up in the kingdom's government since the assassination of King Faisal in 1975.

To most Saudis and the outside world, they have come as a surprise — though the militant Islamist Saudi opposition, the Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights, which operates out of London, has known for some days that changes were in prospect.

All of the ministers concerned count in Saudi terms as important civil servants, not as people exercising real power which is the domain of the royal family.

The ministers of defence, the interior and foreign affairs as well as the office of prime minister, which is vested in the king, remain in the hands of the Saudi family.

The Saudis, who created the kingdom in the first 30 years of this century and named it after themselves, remain absolute rulers of the country. They are seen by ordinary Saudis as being "the state."

Last week's changes are related to a package of reforms, including the establishment of a consultative council (Majlis Al Shura), a set of secular regulations for government and changes to the way the provinces are governed, introduced by King Fahd in 1991 and 1992.

When these reforms were announced, the king said that in future ministerial appointments would be for just four years, rather than indefinitely, unless he

wished to make exceptions.

The first fruit of the new system has now been seen.

The changes will be

popular in Saudi Arabia,

not because the old minis-

ters were seen to be incom-

petent. Mohammad Abu Al

Khalif, who had run the

ministry of finance for 30

years was able and highly

respected — but because

Saudis have become cynical

about the sheer immobility

of their government.

The lack of new blood in

the council of ministers (the

cabinet) was one of the

standard grumbles of young

Saudis — including young

princes — along with the

poor quality of the media

and, until the institution of

the Majlis Al Shura in 1993,

the lack of any system of

consultation.

The changes are not like-

ly significantly to affect

Saudi policies, although

there has been mounting

concern over the ability of

the government to cut

spending and reduce its \$4

billion budget deficit, ex-

acerbated by the \$60 billion

cost of the Gulf war which

wiped out most of the coun-

try's available reserves.

They are most important

as an indication of the

king's constitutional think-

ing. The main job of a

Saudi oil minister is to go to

meetings."

Suleiman Al Suleim

moves from commerce to

the ministry of finance with

a reputation for integrity,

which was also a character-

istic of his predecessor.

The replacement of General Ali Shaer as minister of information by his deputy, Fouad Al Farsi, could be the most important change from the point of view of the daily lives of Saudis.

Three of the individual changes are particularly interesting.

Hisham Nazzar has been replaced as minister of oil in part because he was due to retire. He had 30 years in government, as minister of planning before he moved to oil after the dismissal of Sheikh Ahmad Zaki Yamani in 1987.

In the latter position, he had offended some officials in his ministry and had been the subject of speculation about his dismissal. But, from the point of view of the king, he was a sound minister because he did as he was told.

His replacement, Ali Nuaimi, who has been in the production company, Aramco, for most of his working life, should be equally competent. As a former diplomat in London put it, "The main job of a Saudi oil minister is to go to meetings."

Suleiman Al Suleim moves from commerce to the ministry of finance with a reputation for integrity, which was also a character-

The Financial Times

THE WEEK IN PRINT

All Arabs must work to end suffering of Iraqi people

By Elia Nasrallah

THE LOCAL Arabic press last week gave prominence to the situation in Iraq, the Jewish settlers' attempts at storming the Al Haram Al Sharif and the Middle East peace process.

When members of the

Iraqi President's family and

closest military aides

choose to flee their country

and seek refuge in Jordan,

one can logically conclude

that the situation in Iraq has

deteriorated to such a de-

gree that the whole nation

and not only the ordinary

people is no more able to

live through the ordeal any

longer, said Saleh Qallab in

Al Dustour. The writer said

that no one can say that

Hussein Kamel Hassan, the

Iraqi president's son in law,

had no loyalty to his

country or its leadership.

But we ought to admit

Sleaze rubs shine off Germany's moral halo

A string of corruption values of honesty and claims against business duty for a 'backhander leaders suggests that Ger- society,' Denis Staunton mans are abandoning old reports from Frankfurt.

he majority of us support peace and justice. The columnists say that it is by settlers on the population and the economy and, above all, the holy shrines that the real hatred of the Jewish people against the Palestinians, the Arabs and the Muslim. In company, the writer, the movements and the PLO have taken and irreconcilable peace with the Arabs and the realists. The government has made a local moves, hence, are the on-going actions against the in the occupied areas.

But 48 hours before the big day, Opel announced that it was all off — the party was cancelled, and Herr Enderle departed for a sudden and unexpected holiday.

The first sign of trouble had been when detectives turned up demanding to search his home, his car and his office.

They suspected him of being one of 40 Opel managers to have accepted bribes from suppliers in return for Opel contracts. The main accusation is that the Hochstie construction firm bilked Opel for £9,500 worth of repairs to Enderle's home in Wiesbaden.

Mr. Enderle insists that he did nothing wrong but he resigned within a week, along with two members of Opel's supervisory board. News came from Detroit that another former Opel manager who was under investigation had committed suicide.

It was revealed a few days later that managers at Ford in Cologne and at Volkswagen in Wolfsburg had taken bribes of up to £78,000 from suppliers and that detectives are investigating corrupt practices at such pillars of German industry as Siemens, BASF and Nixdorf.

These revelations of sleaze at the heart of the German economy have come as a severe shock to a nation which has traditionally revered industrialists and where economic success is seen as the central national achievement of the past 50 years.

"It was our secret victory after the military defeat in the World War II and the moral defeat represented by Auschwitz, and this economic success helped to compensate for the feelings of inferiority felt by many Germans in the post-war years," according to Horst-Eberhard Richter, a German psychoanalyst and the author of a best-selling book about corruption.

"It gives us a sense of identity to know that the strength of the D-Mark makes Europe dependent on us, or that you would no longer be able to make Rolls-Royce or Jaguar cars in Britain if it wasn't for BMW buying up the factory."

The tall, gleaming temples of corporate finance which dominate the skyline of Frankfurt testify to the fact that this is a city dedicated to making, spending and manipulating money. According to the head of the city's corruption squad, Wolfgang Schäupensteiner says that, as public officials have fallen in public esteem, they have become more susceptible to temptation.

"It is all about improving their standard of living — houses, cars, trips around the world, a better life — and for that you need a lot of money. Most public servants are still incorruptible but too many are out to supplement their salaries in any way they can, regardless of the morality," he said.

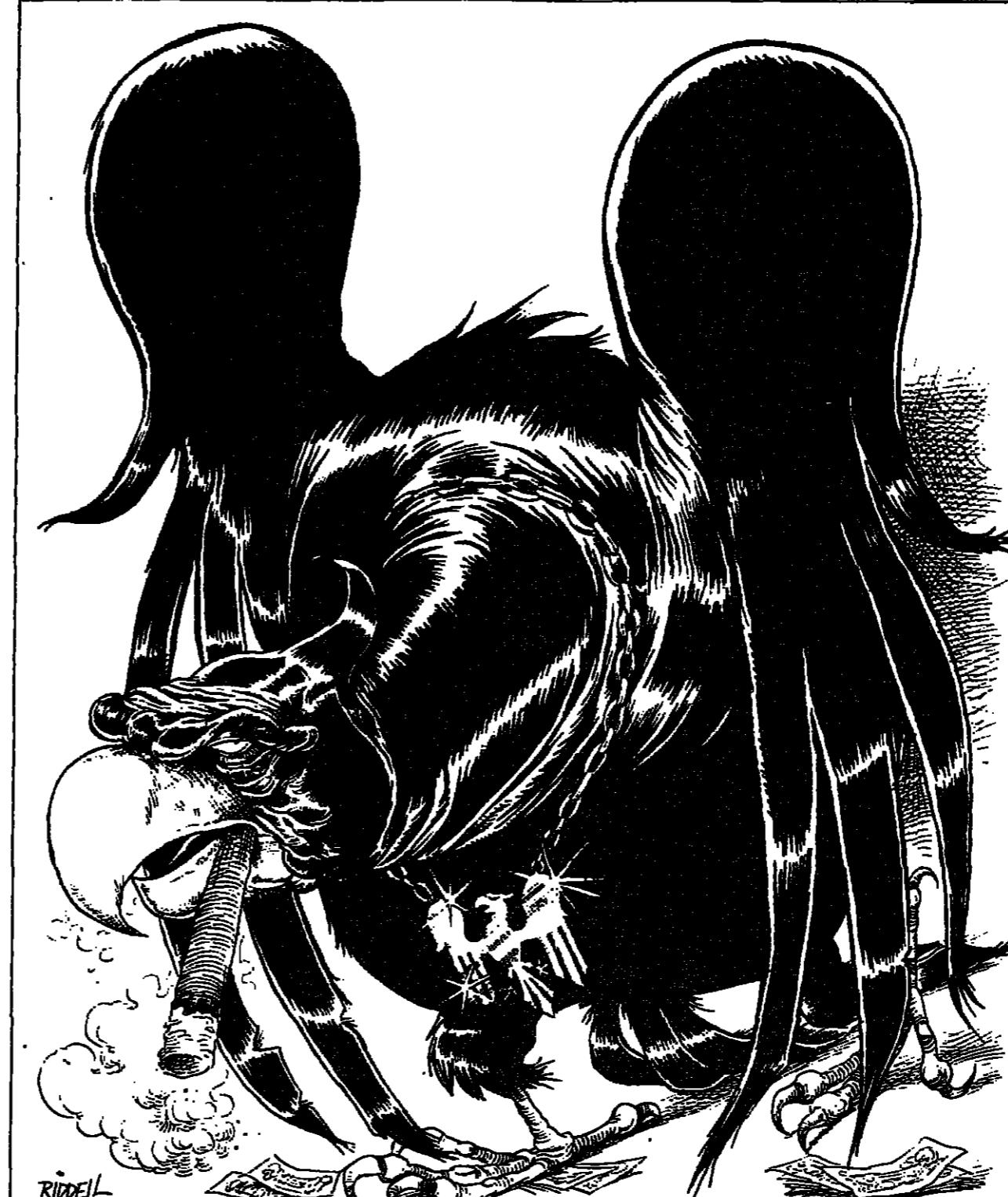
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Fresh revelations of sleaze in German industry have been appearing almost weekly throughout the summer, often centring on companies and financial institutions previously regarded as a model of efficiency and a source of pride.

"I think the younger generation is very sober and modest but there is another level which wants exactly the opposite of the traditional German manager who is withdrawn and shies away from publicity," says Professor Herbert Simon, a former lecturer at Harvard Business School who advises some of Germany's top companies on strategy and marketing.



The psychoanalyst Richter says that Germans as a whole have become steadily more egotistical, more competitively minded and less concerned with truth and honesty over the past 20 years, and he detects a sharp backlash against the old national stereotype.

"The want to get away from the image of the well-behaved, upright, dutiful German and all the pedantry and fussiness associated with it. The modern German wants to show he can be just as relaxed as an American," he said.

Many German managers are impressed by the glamour of American business, such as Lee Iacocca, who have become international celebrities. But the cult of the individual manager sits uneasily with a German corporate culture which has always emphasised company loyalty and the identification of employees at every level with the firm.

The structure of most big German companies reflects the broadly consensual society which Germany has been since the end of the World War II. Workers' representatives sit on supervisory boards and most companies take seriously their responsibility for employees' welfare, strenuously avoiding compulsory redundancies for German staff, funding sports and projects. So, for most Germans, stealing from the company is tantamount to dipping into the pocket of your fellow worker or your next-door neighbour.

Klaus Franz, a workers' representative at Opel, says his colleagues were impressed when they heard that their bosses may have been taking bribes, particularly since these were the

very same executives who had insisted on painful cost-cutting.

"About the individual motives one can only speculate because in material terms these people did not need to do it. They were in such high positions that you would think power was much more important to them than material gain. The workers were very disappointed because they have made big sacrifices to cut costs and to keep the company profitable," he says.

Business analysts say the solution to Germany's corruption problem lies in introducing better controls over where corporate money is going and how contracts are being awarded. Improving auditing standards would help, but much of the responsibility for keeping a company clean lies with its supervisory board, which keeps a close eye on managers.

The big German banks have representatives on the supervisory boards of almost every big company, but when Deutsche Bank was contacted last week, nobody was prepared to talk about corruption.

"What gave you the idea of asking us?" spluttered a spokesman. "We've got nothing to do with any of these scandals and you can easily get your fingers burnt by commenting on them."

But Professor Simon insists that the banks bear a large share of the responsibility, not just for the rise in corruption but for large-scale fraud cases such as the collapse of Jürgen Schrempp's multi-billion-mark property empire last year.

He says the relationship between bankers and businessmen is often too cosy for anybody's good.

"You should keep some distance from the people you're trying to control. If they belong to the same clubs and move in the same social circle as you it is more difficult to judge them properly. I think that was part of the problem with Mr. Schneider. Too many people were impressed by his glamour and by the parties he gave," he says.

Mr. Schneider is currently awaiting extradition to Germany on fraud charges following his arrest after almost a year on the run.

Police say that Peter Graf, father of Germany's tennis star Steffi Graf, was also about to flee the country when they arrested him last week for alleged tax fraud. Mr. Richter says the claims against Steffi and her father represent a further blow to the German self-image as a nation of upright, incorruptible citizens.

"Steffi was a role model for the Germans, an image of purity. You never saw her being inconsiderate. She never spoke nastily like so many others and now suddenly she is implicated in this corruption and we hear that she could end up in jail as well as her father," he said.

Count Johann Lambdorff, an economist at Göttingen University who studies corruption, believes that the wave of revelations may have more to do with a new public awareness of the problem than with any real increase in sleaze. He says that, until 1989, the presence of communism behind the Berlin Wall meant that West Germany felt under pressure to suggest that capitalism was beyond reproach.

"Maybe for that reason more was brushed under the carpet in the past. It could be that the 1990s have seen a return to a kind of civil society and we are most alert and more determined to do something about corruption."

But for Mr. Schäupensteiner, the spate of scandals provides support for a message he has been trying to convey to business for years — that corrupt practices can damage their company as much as society in general. He estimates that corruption in the building trade pushes up the cost of public works by almost 30 per cent and says the long-term effects on the economy could be much more serious.

"Corruption means hindering competition. It is not the company that performs best which wins the contract but the one that bribes the most. Why should a company bother to make better products if they can sell their bad products with bribes?"

The Observer

Iraqis given Jordan asylum

(Continued from page 1)

The United States is very interested in any information dam's hometown, and related to the president's father, had defected. But it was known that members of the Al Majid clan were engaged in a running conflict with the half brothers and sons of President Saddam.

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The news magazine *Der Spiegel* declared that Ger-

many was on its way to becoming a "backhander society" and the liberal weekly *Die Zeit* asked if morality in Germany was going to seed.

The Prussian public servant was viewed until recently as the embodiment of the traditional virtues of hard work, a sense of duty, orderliness, thrift and cleanliness. Germans were willing to forgive the officiousness of railwaymen, post office clerks and policemen who saw their reward more in terms of financial gain.

According to the head of the city's corruption squad, Wolfgang Schäupensteiner says that, as public officials have fallen in public esteem, they have become more susceptible to temptation.

"It is all about improving their standard of living — houses, cars, trips around the world, a better life — and for that you need a lot of money. Most public servants are still incorruptible but too many are out to supplement their salaries in any way they can, regardless of the morality," he said.

A driving licence can be obtained for £1,300, he said, and £2,200 is the going rate for a residence permit allowing a foreigner to work in Germany. "Licences for bars, restaurants and nightclubs can all be arranged at a price and you can quite easily buy your way into a council flat. Everything is organised on a normal commercial basis," he said.

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Economy

Jordan reaps peace dividend in increased tourism

AMMAN (AFP) — Peace with Israel has given a shot in the arm to Jordan's long-dormant tourist industry as tens of thousands of more visitors a year, including Israelis, come to see the country's sites.

"Peace has obviously encouraged tourists coming from Israel, the United States, Canada and Europe to visit Jordan," Tourism Minister Abdul Jabb Khatib told AFP.

The number of tourists shot up to 446,000 in the first half of 1995, some 40 percent higher than the 317,000 who

came in the same period of 1994, Mr. Khatib said.

"The tourism sector, which brought in \$60 million in receipts in 1994, should earn even more in 1995 with the higher numbers of visitors," he added.

Some 52,000 Israelis — 11 percent of all the visitors in the first half of 1995 — ventured across the border that had been closed to them for 40 years until the peace treaty signed on Oct. 26.

Most take short overnight trips, especially to the Nabataean city of Petra in the

south or the Roman ruins of Jerash north of Amman.

Jordanian entrepreneurs have moved to adapt to the new clientele. In early June, one Amman businessman converted his restaurant into the country's first kosher establishment.

"The tourism industry has been somewhat neglected in past years," Mr. Khatib said. "But it should see a leap forward in the future. The archaeological and natural potential is great and has not been well exploited."

Jordan boasts some 600 antiquity sites, the most

famous of them Jerash and Petra, a 6th-century B.C. "lost city" carved in the rose-coloured rock of Jordan's southern mountains.

"Dozens of investors" are also boning in on the Jordanian side of the Dead Sea and the Gulf of Aqaba at the Kingdom's extreme south as prime tourism zones.

A total of 25 new hotels are currently being built across the country, with a total investment of \$83 million. They will add 3,883 beds to the current capacity of 15,400.

Much of the new investment focuses on the port of

Aqaba, which tourism developers see as part of a new "Gulf Riviera," stretching from Aqaba, through the Israeli port of Eilat to the Egyptian Sinai resort of Sharm Al Sheikh.

"Our policy is to seek a balance between preserving archaeological and natural sites and exploiting them economically," said Mr. Khatib.

The tourism minister said Jordan would also seek to draw more tourists from the wealthy Gulf monarchies, pointing out that their numbers remained constant at

185,000 in the first halves of 1994 and 1995.

"But we're hoping their numbers will grow as relations warm up," Mr. Khatib said.

In June, Saudi Arabia re-established diplomatic ties with Jordan which were cut off after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990, when Amman was seen as taking a pro-Baghdad stance.

Jordan, Syria and Lebanon recently signed an accord to launch a joint tourism publicity campaign in the Gulf countries, Mr. Khatib said.

Dollar shoots up to 5-month high vs. yen

TOKYO (R) — The dollar shot to a five-month high against the yen and surged against European currencies Friday, powered by political and technical factors, although the rally cooled off late in the day.

The dollar surged above the key 93 yen barrier and overcame resistance at 1.4250 marks in Tokyo trade, prodded by heavy bids by overseas operators that helped the dollar accelerate its recent upward swing.

The Japanese government welcomed the yen's renewed retreat, with Trade Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto telling reporters he wanted the dollar to make up still more ground on the yen.

By midday the dollar had hit 93.80 yen, its highest level since March 6, before falling back slightly on profit-taking and exporter sales. It was quoted at 93.25/35 yen at 0828 GMT.

It also rose as high as 1.4320 marks, its highest against the German currency since June 1. It eased later, and was quoted at around 1.4277/82.

The dollar also jumped against the Swiss franc, touching a high of around 1.1882 against a New York close of 1.1760/70.

Although the dollar has risen sharply against the yen over the past few days, its weakness against the mark and other European currencies had kept a lid on gains. But dealers said Friday's move seemed to signal a genuine upward trend.

"You can definitely say today's dollar is strong across the board, and ... it will probably rise very fast," said Tomio Kudo, chief customer dealer at Dresdner Bank A.G. in Tokyo.

"Five months ago, the dollar fell very suddenly from

around 96 yen to 91 yen with no resistance. This created a vacuum through which it may rise even faster than we expect," echoed Mitsuru Saito, deputy general manager at Sanwa Bank Ltd.

Last week's surprise ministry of finance deregulation package to promote overseas investment, combined with joint dollar-buying intervention by the United States and Japan, appeared to be taking effect, with Japanese life insurers and other investors increasing overseas holdings, he added.

Another factor behind the dollar's sudden strength appeared to be fresh instability in the Middle East and the continuing crisis in Bosnia, Dresdner's Kudo said.

The dollar had lost much of its traditional status as a "safe haven" in times of political instability, but recent U.S. economic strength seems to have reversed this trend, Mr. Kudo said.

"The U.S. economy is firm and the government is fairly stable as well, certainly more than Japan's. This is reviving the dollar's attractiveness as a safe haven," he added.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin's comments Thursday that a strong dollar is in the best interests of the U.S. recalled similar statements made by Japanese officials when the dollar climbed back to the 90 yen level last week, increasing market perceptions that both countries are sincere in maintaining a strong dollar, dealers said.

Technical factors also fueled the dollar's gains.

Dresdner's Kudo said: "The combination of all these things has been very good for the dollar. And I now see little in the way of a fairly quick rise to 95.00 yen and 1.4500 marks."

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You can be very creative today so make your plans wisely, and follow through with them. Listen to the ideas of your mate.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 18) Think of home and family today, and make your abode a heavenly and restful place. Do some entertaining with your mate for some good friends.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 19) You know the right way to gain more cooperation today from regular allies and thereby become more successful. Get your desk tasks handled.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Concentrate on making the most wise plan possible today so that you add considerably to your assets. Take it easy.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You are dynamic today and should contact those persons from whom you desire favours, and you can easily gain them with a smile.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21) Study your overall ambitions today since you are too overwhelmed with details and could lose sight of what is truly important.

LIBRA: (September 22 to October 21) Get into social affairs which truly intrigue you today, and the evening can be a memorable one. Be more sure of yourself.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You can accomplish much in the outside business world today so get an early start. Shop wisely and handle civic matters.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You like to think big and this is the right day for that because you can accomplish something worthwhile in your life.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You may get so involved with specifics that you could forget the motives behind your undertakings.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Early today find out what your associates expect of you, and then get busy and try to please them for you to succeed.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Be more enthused about whatever you may be doing today and gain the cooperation of fellow associates. Avoid one who is jealous of you.

Birthstone of August: Peridot — Golden Quartz

Saudi Arabia seeks to become major gold producer

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AFP) — Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, is seeking to become a major gold producer by developing some 900 sites, officials and industry experts said.

Last year, Saudi Arabia mined 7.6 tonnes of gold ore and imported 70 tonnes, which it turned into jewellery and other products sold at home and to other Gulf states, Ahmad Yunes, a representative of the World Gold Council, told AFP.

"You can't compare this output with South Africa's or the United States, the second biggest producer," Mr. Yunes said. Of the 2,296 tonnes produced worldwide in 1994, South Africa accounted for 584 tonnes and the United States 331 tonnes.

"But Saudi Arabia has great potential and could join

the club of big producers in a few years by developing sites believed to contain this precious metal," Mr. Yunes said.

"It won't be easy to develop them, though, and it will require large investments and equipment," he said.

King Fahd Saturday re-appointed the new cabinet he appointed last week that Saudi Arabia, in addition to its vast oil reserves, had "under its surface" precious minerals like gold.

And during a conference in June on investing in mining, the then oil minister, Hisham Nazer, said there were at least 782 sites where gold was the main metal and 153 others where it was present to some degree.

He estimated Saudi Arabia's proven reserves at more than 20 million tonnes.

Mahd Al Zehab (the cradle of gold), 280 kilometres northeast of Jeddah, contains 1.2 million tonnes of proven ore reserves, with a density of 31 grammes (1.085 ounces) of gold per tonne and 73 grammes (2.555 ounces) of silver per tonne.

Its output increased from 1.6 tonnes of gold in 1988 to 5.1 tonnes in 1994 and revenues rose from \$5.89 million to \$29.49 million in the same period, according to figures from the petroleum and mineral resources ministry.

Mahd Al Zehab has produced 25 tonnes of gold since it went into production in 1988.

Khbirat, which is the country's second biggest gold producing site and 330 kilometres northeast of Medina, contains an estimated 8.4 million tonnes of

reserves, with a density of 2.5 grammes (.0875 ounces) per tonne.

Al Amar in the centre has 3.5 million tonnes at 25 grammes (.085 ounces) per tonne. Al Hajar in the south has six million tonnes at 3.5 grammes (.1225 ounces) per tonne and Al Suq in the centre has three million tonnes at 5.5 grammes (.1925 ounces) per tonne.

In June, Sheikh Nazer urged Saudi businessmen to invest in the mining industry.

"More than 28 million tonnes of minerals, especially

gold, phosphate, zinc, copper and bauxite were extracted from Saudi territory in 1994, generating \$533 million in net profit," he said.

"Saudi Arabia, whose proven reserves of phosphate are estimated at nearly eight billion tonnes, should become one of the biggest producers in the world," Sheikh Nazer said.

Saudi Arabia also plans over the next several years to produce around 28,000 tonnes of zinc and 8,000 tonnes of copper, according to official estimates.

Mining already accounts for four per cent of the country's gross national product.

U.S. economy expanding slowly to moderately, survey says

WASHINGTON (AP) — The American economy is expanding moderately in some parts of the country while in others growth practically has come to a standstill, the government has said.

An influential survey of business conditions conducted by the Federal Reserve (Fed) gave a mixed picture.

"Manufacturing, particularly the auto and construction-related industries, continues to slow in many districts," the report said. "However, orders are up in some districts and inventories generally are consi-

dered to be at acceptable levels."

The Fed's so-called "beige book," a periodic survey, appears to support other data that shows the economy has moderated recently. But there are few signs that a recession is likely, private analysts and government economists say.

Gross domestic product, the total of all goods and services produced in the United States, was virtually flat in the second quarter of the year. Analysts have said they expect a modest improvement in the current quarter.

The survey, concluded July

31 based on reports from the Fed's 12 regional banks, said most areas of the nation "continue to report economic expansion, although in some areas the rate of expansion has moderated recently. The upper midwest, southeast and west continue to expand. Other areas are experiencing little or no growth."

The survey also said retail sales are up slightly in about half the country and are sluggish or declining elsewhere.

Inflation pressures remain, the Fed said, but "the rate of increases appears to be moderating" for materials and supplies.

The 72-page Oxfam study, authored by Lui Tak-lok, Chinese University sociology lecturer, concluded that "poverty is a structural prob-

lem in our society and should not be viewed as the misfortune of individuals."

"Never have they been challenged with high inflation, exorbitant land prices, economic restructuring and a whole chain of problems, in which the hardest hit are the lower income groups," he said.

Gini coefficient, an index measuring the income gap — jumped from 0.451 in 1981 to 0.476 in 1991. In Taiwan and Singapore, the index was between 0.3 and 0.4, respectively.

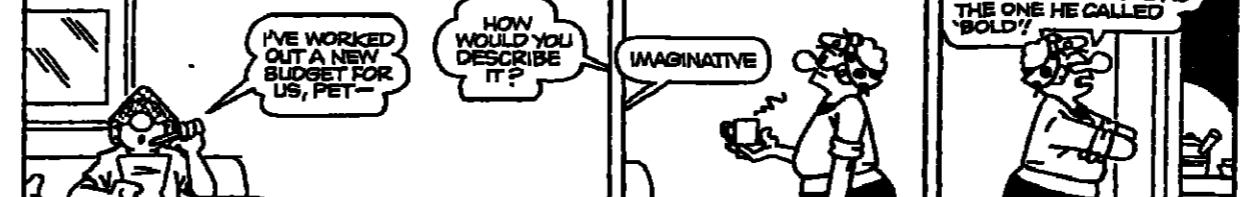
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"I met someone on the Internet who shares the same interests as me. Boy, what a boring guy!"

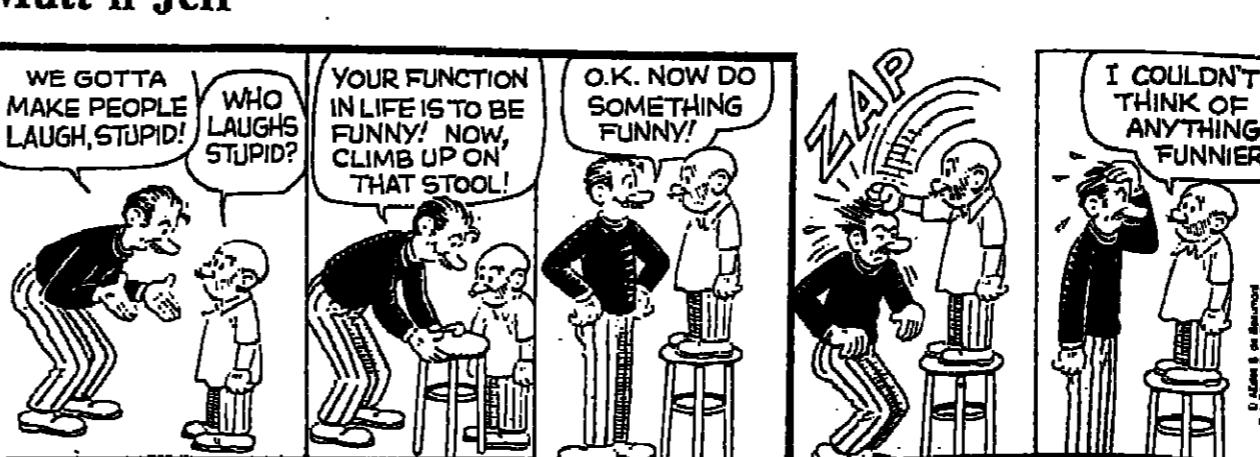
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n Jeff



Sports

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 1995

Faisali win Cup Winner's Cup

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Al Faisali Friday scored a convincing 4-1 win over reigning Premier League champions Al Wihdat to clinch their record 9th Cup Winner's Cup — one of the country's four major soccer titles.

Al Faisali's win added another record to the team's long line of achievements as they have also won the Jordan Cup nine times and the Premier League 25 times.

Friday's match at Al Hussein Youth City was attended by Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdias Ben Al Hussein and Princess Rania.

Al Faisali won the first half 3-0 on goals from Mousa Awad, Rabea Al Awadat and Firas Khalil as the team displayed coherent teamwork and totally dominated the first half.

Al Wihdat's Khaled Majaalawi scored his team's face-saving goal at the beginning of the second half.

Al Faisali's Ja'far Hamad sealed his team's win

with the fourth goal in the final minutes of the match attended by over 14,000 fans.

Al Faisali had faced Al Wihdat for the Cup Winner's Cup four times winning the title in three of their clashes: 6-4 on penalties in 1981, 1-0 in 1986 and 2-1 in 1993. Al Wihdat beat Al Faisali 5-4 on penalties to win the title in 1989.

The JSF had considered the postponement of the match on a request by Al Wihdat who have four players on the Olympic team which recently con-

Cup Winner's Cup record (Runner up in brackets)

1981	Al Faisali (Wihdat)
1982	Al Faisali (Ramtha)
1983	Ramtha (Wihdat)
1984	Al Faisali (Ramtha)
1985	Jazireh (Amman)
1986	Al Faisali (Wihdat)
1987	Al Faisali (Arabi)
1988	No match was held
1989	Wihdat (Al Faisali)
1990	Ramtha (Al Faisali)
1991	Al Faisali (Ramtha)
1992	Wihdat (Ramtha)
1993	Al Faisali (Wihdat)
1994	Al Faisali (Ramtha)
1995	Al Faisali (Wihdat)

Olajuwon happy with U.S. Jersey

SECAUCUS, New Jersey (AP) — After putting on his U.S. Olympic Jersey for the first time, Hakeem Olajuwon hardly cared that it was a bit tight. After what he went through to get it, the fit wasn't important.

"It's beautiful," he said when he modelled the red, white and blue No. 13 jersey for the first time.

For Olajuwon, being one of the first players named on the 12-man 1996 Olympic team marked the end of one mission and the start of another — winning a gold medal.

Ever since pros were first allowed to participate in Olympic basketball competition in 1992, the Nigerian-born Houston Rockets centre dreamed of playing for his adopted country. He watched, with longing, the original Dream Team win gold in Barcelona.

But even though he became a U.S. citizen in 1993, international basketball rules prohibited him from playing for the United States because he had represented his native Nigeria in an international tournament when he was a teenager.

By the time a team was

chosen to represent the United States in the 1994 World Championships, Olajuwon had largely given up any thought of ever being able to play for America.

"It wasn't a dream anymore for me," he said. "I decided to concentrate on other areas."

But on a trip through Boston in late 1994, he contacted Alan Dershowitz, The Harvard Law professor and attorney whose celebrity clients have included Mike Tyson and American footballer O.J. Simpson. Over dinner, Dershowitz said he thought Olajuwon could get permission to play from FIBA and offered to help.

"I just think Hakeem Olajuwon is the best role model in the NBA today for young people," Dershowitz said. "It would have been really a tragedy if he wasn't allowed to play in the Olympics."

FIBA was willing to listen to Olajuwon. When USA Basketball made its selections for the team in June, his waiver from FIBA was all but assured of going through and he was invited to join the team right around the time he was leading Houston to its second consecutive NBA ti-

tie. "I thought it was too good to be true," he said.

It wasn't. A few weeks later, FIBA secretary Borislav Stankovic granted Olajuwon an exception to the rules. He was free to play with Orlando's Shaquille O'Neal, San Antonio's David Robinson, Utah's Karl Malone and John Stockton, Chicago's Scottie Pippen and the rest of "Dream Team III" in Atlanta.

"This is the highest level of competition in the United States," he said. "To be selected as one of the players, (one of) only 12 to represent the U.S., it's a big honour."

It also will mean big fun for Olajuwon, who relishes the opportunity to play alongside O'Neal and Robinson, the other two Dream Team III centres. To allow Coach Leni Wilkens to have more than one of them on the floor at a time, Olajuwon who would gladly shift to power forward on occasion.

"It gives a lot of room to be creative," he said. "You're playing against your toughest competition in practice. The competition will be in practice. In the game, we'll be a team."

African struggle for Olympic places continues

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — The contest to determine which three countries will represent Africa at the 1996 Olympic Games soccer tournament in the United States resumes this weekend.

Nigeria, favourites not only to reach the 16-nation finals, but probable challengers for the gold medals, host Egypt, whose 10 Olympic appearances is a record for Africa.

The Egyptians first played at the finals 75 years ago in the Belgian city of Antwerp, losing 2-1 to Italy in the first round, and were also in action at the 1992 Barcelona Games.

Nigeria can call on European-based professionals like Augustine Okocha from German club Eintracht Frankfurt and Nwankwo Kanu, who collected a European Cup winners' medal this year with Dutch masters Ajax.

Without their Foreign Legion, Nigeria struggled at

home to modest Kenya in the opening round, drawing 0-0, but an Okocha-inspired team made no mistake in the return match, winning 3-0.

Egypt were less impressive, scoring a couple of one-goal victories over little Mauritius, and it would be a surprise if Nigeria fail to build a winning lead with home advantage.

Traditional southern Africa rivals Zimbabwe and Zambia will not lack confidence ahead of their showdown following convincing first-round triumphs over Malawi and Botswana respectively.

Alois Bunjira and Elasto Lungu, a son of former national defender Ephraim,

scored twice each for Zimbabwe while Zambian Dennis Lots finished with a similar goal tally.

Ghana, idle in the opening phase when cash-strapped Congo withdrew, entertain Angola, who boast one of the most exciting young African players in Fabrice 'Akwa' Mateus.

It's aggravating. You get antsy in the blocks and your arms are shaking," he said of the five-minute delay caused by the false starts.

"I'm also suffering from aneurisms behind my right knee," said Kingdom after his first race since July 10 in Stockholm.

"I thought I won — even after the photo finish."

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World Athletics championships

U.S. wake up with Torrence hangover

GOTHENBURG (AFP) — The U.S. team were determined to get on with the World Championships here on Friday, but remained bitter over Gwen Torrence's disqualification and the accusations of cheating.

However, the team arrived in Amman Thursday and players, although tired, were here in time for the match.

Al Faisali and Al Wihdat have secured at least one title this season. Al Wihdat beat Al Jaliil to win the JSF Shield while Al Faisali overcame Al Ramtha to win their record 9th Jordan Cup.

Al Faisali had faced Al Wihdat for the Cup Winner's Cup four times winning the title in three of their clashes: 6-4 on penalties in 1981, 1-0 in 1986 and 2-1 in 1993. Al Wihdat beat Al Faisali 5-4 on penalties to win the title in 1989.

The JSF had considered the postponement of the match on a request by Al Wihdat who have four players on the Olympic team which recently con-

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Clinton calls for total ban on nuclear tests

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Bill Clinton announced support Friday for complete nuclear test ban, pledging to "build a safe world" half a century after the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Mr. Clinton said the United States backed "a true zero yield" test ban, dropping its previous insistence that it could conduct small laboratory nuclear weapons experiments.

"The United States will now insist on a test ban that prohibits any nuclear weapons test explosions or any other nuclear explosion," Mr. Clinton told reporters at the White House.

"A comprehensive test ban is the right step as we continue pulling back from the nuclear precipice," he said. "It moves us one step closer to the day when no nuclear weapons are detonated anywhere on the face of the earth."

Mr. Clinton said he hoped the announcement would speed negotiations for a test ban accord in Geneva and allow conclusion of the talks next year. France called for a similar comprehensive treaty on Thursday.

"This is an historic milestone in our efforts to reduce the nuclear threat, to build a safer world," the U.S. president said.

But Mr. Clinton maintained that he would seek to

reserve the right in such a treaty "to conduct necessary testing in the wake of the 50th anniversary of our nuclear deterrent could no longer be certified."

Mr. Clinton made the announcement in the wake of the 50th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The president pledged in January to make a test ban treaty a priority and that he would work to get global support for an accord.

The Washington Post reported that a panel of scientists advised the administration last week that the small hydrodynamic tests were not needed and that larger explosions would not be necessary if other steps were taken to ensure the viability of the U.S. arsenal.

The administration has been torn over the issue of curbing nuclear testing, but officials told the Post that Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman John Shalikashvili and Defense Secretary William Perry had signed on to the president's endorsement.

France's ambassador to the Geneva Disarmament Conference, Gerard Errera, said Thursday the comprehensive test ban treaty being negotiated should "prohibit any nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion."

Spergeon Keeny, president of the private arms control

association, hailed the Clinton decision, calling it "a courageous action."

Mr. Keeny said Mr. Clinton overruled Pentagon efforts to convert the testing moratorium ordered by former President George Bush and continued by Mr. Clinton to one that would prohibit only tests with an explosive force greater than one-half kilotonnes of TNT.

"This should provide the incentive to move the test ban negotiations forward," Mr. Keeny said. "Otherwise, they would have been dead in the water."

All other forms of U.S. nuclear testing — in the atmosphere and under water — were long since banned by treaty. Some 900 nuclear blasts have been conducted at the U.S. test site in Nevada since 1951.

On Thursday, Mr. Clinton said a recent statement by the French government that it would accept a zero threshold for a nuclear test-ban treaty, tantamount to banning all tests, would make negotiating a treaty much easier.

French President Jacques Chirac announced in June that France will stage a new series of seven or eight small-yield nuclear tests in September at its Mururoa atoll range in the Pacific.

He said this week that the site will be closed down once the test series is completed.



BROTHERS-IN-LAW: File photo of Iraqi Minister of Industry Hussein Kamel Hassan (left), son-in-law of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, who was granted asylum in the U.S. (AP photo)

Jordan on Thursday (see story on page one). At right is Uday Hussein, son of President Saddam Hussein (AP photo)

Japan apologises to U.K. for 'suffering' caused in war

LONDON (AFP) — Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama has apologised for "suffering" caused by Japan during World War II, including that to British prisoners of war (PoWs), Downing Street said Friday.

A spokesman said Mr. Murayama had sent a letter to Prime Minister John Major expressing "profound remorse for Japan's actions in a certain period of the past which caused such unbearable suffering and sorrow for so many people."

The letter marked the first formal apology by Tokyo to Britain since the end of World War II, and follows protests by thousands of former PoWs who have demanded compensation from the Japanese government.

Downing Street said it would not disclose any more of the contents of the letter, since it was a confidential correspondence, but said Mr. Major had written to express his sympathy to the families of British prisoners of war.

A spokesman said the contents were prefaced by the phrase "with regard to the questions of the past," but Mr. Murayama also referred specifically to a previous verbal apology for acts "including (on) prisoners of war."

"I reiterate this sentiment," he wrote, the spokesman said.

The letter came a week before Victory in Japan (VJ) day next Saturday marking the end of the war in Japan. Previously Tokyo has apologised to British authorities only verbally.

The issue of Japanese recognition of responsibility for

Cyprus murder trial is adjourned

LARNACA, Cyprus (AP) — The three-week-old trial of three British soldiers accused of kidnapping and killing a Danish woman was adjourned Friday until Sept. 4 while the court goes into summer recess.

Prosecution's star witness Michael Vassiliades, the Cypriot boyfriend of the slain woman, concluded four days of testimony, rejecting defense claims that his recollection of events on the night of the slaying 11 months ago was flawed.

He has testified that the three Britons were the men who attacked him and his girlfriend, Louise Jensen, 23, in the tourist resort of Ayia Napa on the night of Sept. 12-13.

In the most dramatic moment of the trial, Mr. Vassiliades testified that the soldiers beat up Jensen, of Hirtshals, Denmark, before bundling her into their car and driving off with her.

The soldiers are accused of manslaughter, kidnapping and conspiracy to rape the Danish tour guide. They have pleaded innocent to all charges.

The defendants are Alan Ford, 26, Justin Fowler, 26, and Jeff Parnell, 23.

All are serving with the Royal Green Jackets regiment at the British sovereign base of Dhekelia on the East Mediterranean island's south coast.

Mr. Vassiliades told the court earlier that the soldiers ran him off the road in their car as he and Jensen were riding home on his motorcycle. Jensen's leg was pinned beneath the motor after it crashed.

Under cross-examination Friday, he said that while he was trying to free her he asked if she was all right.

"She laughed," he said. "She thought it was all a joke. She laughed as if nothing was wrong."

But at that moment, he said, the defendants reversed towards him in their car.

Cairo imposed the requirements when relations between the two countries went into crisis after Egypt accused Khartoum of backing the June 26 assassination attempt on President Hosni Mubarak in Addis Ababa.

The messages deal with "Egyptian aggressions in Halaib, the beating of Sudanese diplomats in Cairo and the confiscation of Sudanese nationals' properties in Egypt," the paper said.

The missions will point out Sudan's desire for "dialogue or international mediation" with Egypt and urge the parliaments to take "an effective role in patching up Arab rifts."

Parliamentary delegations will also head next week to Sudan's provinces to discuss implementing a federal government system, paper said.

Egyptian security forces

arrested 23 Sudanese for illegally crossing the border into Egypt, police sources said Friday.

The 23 were picked up "in a sweep over the past few days on Egypt's southern border to stop Muslim extremist elements from Sudan," the source said.

Nearly 100 Sudanese have been turned back at Cairo airport since July 8, when Egypt imposed for the first time entry and resident visa requirements on Sudanese citizens, the source added.

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Meanwhile, the Egyptian Foreign Ministry announced that it received Khartoum's approval of its new ambassador to Sudan.

Hilmi Hamid Saleh Bedir will replace Hassan Gad Al Hag, whose term ends the end of August, the ministry said.

Despite the hostility between them, the two countries have maintained diplomatic ties.

Rival Kurds accept truce

DUBLIN (Agencies) — Two rival Iraqi Kurdish groups meeting at a U.S.-sponsored peace talks in Ireland have agreed to a temporary ceasefire following a year of bloody clashes, an Iraqi opposition group said on Friday.

The Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) also made ground on two key issues to be discussed at further talks, the Iraqi National Congress (INC) said.

About 3,000 people have been killed in fighting between the militias in northern Iraq in the last year. Much of the feud has been related to control of the main Kurdish city of Erbil and revenues from a makeshift oil trade on the Iraqi-Turkish border.

"They have agreed to specific principles for the resolution of Erbil and the revenues," an INC told Reuters by telephone from the talks venue in Drogbeda, about 25 kilometres north of Dublin.

The two groups are to immediately enforce a temporary

ceasefire that was broken in July after three months, he said.

The chances of a more detailed meeting or agreement are positive," KDP Ankara spokesman Saifeen Dizayee said.

The Iraqi Kurds have been protected from Baghdad by a Western allied air force based in southern Turkey since the end of the 1991 Gulf war.

Washington, fearing Iraqi President Saddam Hussein could use the Kurdish fed to regain influence in northern Iraq, brokered the talks.

The two sides will meet again soon to discuss a plan to demilitarise Erbil and then deposit their revenues in bank accounts to be monitored by a neutral commission, the INC said.

The KDP, led by Massoud Barzani, has insisted at previous mediation talks that its rival give up control of Erbil, the seat of a regional parliament which has been paralysed by the fighting for the last eight months.

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The two sides will meet again in a few weeks to work out the details of the accord, and set a schedule for its implementation.

"We are very pleased," said the PUK's Shazad Saib.

"The important thing is that both parties maintain a ceasefire and we (the PUK) government is better able to help protect its southeastern border.

Until the PUK and the KDP started fighting last year, Turkey relied partly on them to stop border infiltrations by militants of the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) hiding in northern Iraq.

Since then, Turkey has twice invaded northern Iraq

to weed out PKK militants.

The PUK has been fighting the government for an independent state in southeastern Turkey since 1984.

The United States sponsored the PUK-KDP negotiations, which were also attended by a Turkish observer.

Meanwhile, representatives of the mainstream northern Iraqi Kurdish parties also expressed relief at the accord and said a partial implementation could start immediately.

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